

WASHINGTON - Today, Congressman John Adler and the New Jersey delegation asked President Barack Obama to agree to Governor Jon Corzine's request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration to be made for Ocean County and the other counties devastated by the recent storm. The letter was led by U.S. Representatives Frank LoBiondo and John Adler and U.S. Senator Robert Menendez.

Last week, Congressman Adler held a conference call with FEMA, Army Corps, NJOEM and Ocean County officials to begin the process of helping Ocean County recover from the storm.

The full text of the letter sent this week to President Obama is below.

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Dear President Obama:

We write to urge you to grant Governor Corzine's request for a Presidential Disaster Declaration and emergency assistance for residents of the New Jersey counties devastated by the November 11-14 nor'easter.

This was one of the worst storms in over a decade to hit our shore communities. The storm caused severe beach erosion, coastal flooding and tremendous damage to public and private property. Miles of protective dunes and beach berm were washed out to sea exposing numerous private homes and businesses, as well as a vast amount of public infrastructure to flood waters. Finally, several roads and bridges were closed due to damage.

Preliminary damage assessments exceed \$49 million for the affected counties. As Governor Corzine points out, this amount, as well as the scope of reconstruction needed to make our communities safe again far exceeds the capacity of the state and affected local jurisdictions.

We strongly believe the devastation residents, business owners and local governments face in the wake of this storm warrants a disaster declaration and emergency federal assistance. We urge you to act on this request for a disaster declaration as soon as possible to ensure state and local communities can begin rebuilding the critical infrastructure necessary to protect life and property prior to the winter storm season.

Thank you for your attention to this important request. We look forward to your favorable action.

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